

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1, 3 – 8, 10 – 14, and 16 – 20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 14 being independent. Claims 1, 3 – 5, 8, 14 and 16 – 18 are currently amended, and claims 2, 9 and 15 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicant has carefully considered the contents of the Office Action and respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the subject application in view of the explanations noted below.

Information Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to the August 9, 2006 final Office Action, a Supplemental IDS was filed September 7, 2006 including a complete copy of CN 1155734, which was initially cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed August 25, 2005. Consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowable subject matter of claims 2 – 7, 9, 11 – 12 and 15 – 20, if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

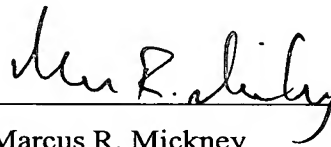
Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8 and 14 are rewritten to include the limitations of objected to dependent claims 2, 9 and 15, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1, 8 and 14 are in condition for allowance, as are respective dependent claims 3 – 7, 10 – 13, and 16 – 20.

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Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2006

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In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3 – 8, 10 – 14, and 16 - 20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marcus R. Mickney", is written over a horizontal line.

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